

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-2575**

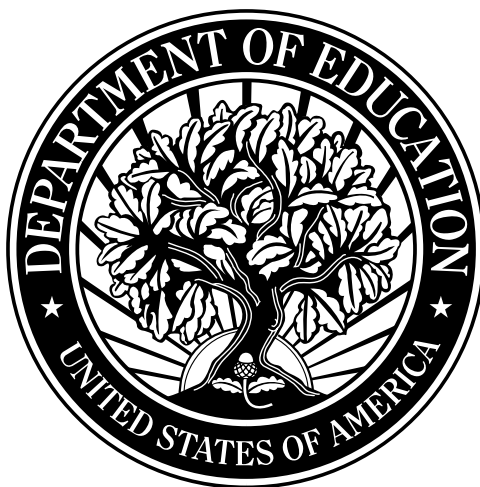
**FY 2011 APPLICATION PACKAGE FOR NEW GRANTS
UNDER
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND
REHABILITATION RESEARCH**

DISABILITY REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECTS (DRRP)

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)
NATIONAL NETWORK KNOWLEDGE
TRANSLATION CENTER (ADA KT CENTER)**

CFDA NUMBER: 84.133A-7

FORM APPROVED



**OMB No. 1820-0027, EXP. DATE 03/31/2013
SF FORM 424, 1/31/2012**

**DATED MATERIAL—OPEN IMMEDIATELY
CLOSING DATE: August 15, 2011**

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SECTION A

DEAR APPLICANT LETTER

June 29, 2011

Dear Applicant:

The Secretary invites applications for a new award in fiscal year (FY) 2011 under the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network Knowledge Translation Center (ADA KT Center), (CFDA Number - 84.133A-7). NIDRR is seeking applications that address all elements of the priority and that propose appropriate, high-quality research methodologies. It is critical that proposals describe expected public benefits, especially benefits for individuals with disabilities, and propose projects that are designed to demonstrate outcomes that are consistent with the proposed goals.

The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The start date for new awards for the (FY) 2011 programs will be no later than October 1, 2011.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

This application package contains information and the required forms for potential applicants to apply and be considered for a FY 2011 grant award under this competition, including the published Federal Register notice dated June 29, 2011. The background statement from the Notice of Proposed Priorities is in Section D.

The closing date (application deadline) is **August 15, 2011**.

Potential applicants are advised to read the materials in this application package carefully. Please pay particular attention to the information contained in the Notice Inviting Applications on the eligible applicants and the dollar amount available for this competition, Section F – the Selection Criteria, Section G – Protection of Human Subjects, and Section H – Application Format and Instructions. Applications must be responsive to the absolute priority in Section C and the statutory, regulatory, and general requirements for the DRRP program in Section E. The application narrative should be written in the order of the selection criteria in Section F. The selection criteria will be used by the reviewers to evaluate the application.

Include a one-page abstract. The abstract is a critical component of the proposal, and it should describe the purpose, target population to be served during the project period, planned goals and objectives, proposed methodological approach, and anticipated project outcomes.

Award Amounts, Required Cost Share and Indirect Cost Rate

We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding the amount of \$850,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. A minimum cost sharing of up to 1% is required and can be negotiated at the time of the grant award if not included in the application. Cost share can be a reduced indirect cost rate, donated FTE, donated space, and/or donated equipment. The indirect cost rate is your institution's federally negotiated rate.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

You **must** submit your application electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site. See Section B, Notice Inviting Applications and Section J, Application Transmittal Instructions.

NOTE: You will be uploading sections of your application by heading. There is a heading for: (1) Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424); (2) Table of Contents; (3) Abstract; (4) ED Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED-524); (5) Budget Narrative; (6) Project Narrative; (7) General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements – Section 427; (8) GG Lobbying Form (90-0013); (9) Faith Based Survey on EEO; (10) ED Supplemental Form for SF 424; (11) SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying; and (12) Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support.. There is a file size limitation to each section, and you may upload only one document under each heading. Therefore, in order to make sure that all of your materials are uploaded successfully, you will need to combine multiple original documents for a heading (e.g., letters, resumes) into a single document before uploading.

Electronic copies must be fully uploaded on the Grants.gov site by 4:30:00 pm, Washington DC time on the closing date, **August 15, 2011**. This process may take several hours. Therefore, please allow several hours or a full day to submit your application. If there is a submission error, additional time will be needed to correct the error and resubmit. **We encourage you to read Section J – Grants.gov Submission Procedures and Tips for Applicants**

PROGRAM REGULATIONS

These grants are subject to the requirements of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97, which set forth general rules affecting the submittal, review, grant award, and post-award administration for Department of Education grant programs.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Pre-Application Meeting: A pre-application meeting will be held between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on July 20, 2011 by teleconference. Interested parties are invited to participate in the pre-application meeting to discuss the funding priority and to receive information and technical assistance. You must contact Lynn Medley at Lynn.Medley@ed.gov by July 19, 2011 in order to participate in this meeting. NIDRR

staff also will be available to provide information and technical assistance via individual phone consultations from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on July 20, 2011. Requests for individual consultations during this one hour window must be made in advance to Lynn Medley.

If you have any questions about the information in this application package, please contact Lynn Medley at Lynn.Medley@ed.gov or by telephone at (202) 245-7338 or Marlene Spencer at Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov or by telephone at (202) 245-7532. Individuals who use a telecommunications device (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday.

If you experience problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726.

Thank you for your interest in this program.

Sincerely,

//signed//

Sue Swenson,
Acting Director,
National Institute on Disability and
Rehabilitation Research

SECTION B

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW AWARDS

4000-01-U
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for New Awards; Americans with Disabilities Act
(ADA) National Network Knowledge Translation Center (ADA KT
Center)

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative
Services, Department of Education

ACTION: Notice.

Overview Information:

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
(NIDRR)--Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and
Centers Program--Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects
(DRRP)--The ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center
Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY)
2011.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133A-
7.

Dates:

Applications Available: June 29, 2011.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: July 20, 2011.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: August 15, 2011.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities, to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology, that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act).

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs)

The purpose of DRRPs, which are funded under NIDRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, training, demonstration, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical

assistance. An applicant for assistance under this program must demonstrate in its application how it will address, in whole or in part, the needs of individuals with disabilities from minority backgrounds (34 CFR 350.40(a)). The approaches an applicant may take to meet this requirement are found in 34 CFR 350.40(b). Additional information on DRRPs can be found at: www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#DRRP.

Priorities: NIDRR has established two absolute priorities for this competition.

Absolute Priorities: The General DRRP Requirements priority, which applies to all DRRP competitions, is from the notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). The ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center priority is from the notice of final priority for this program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

For FY 2011 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet these priorities.

These priorities are:

General Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Requirements and ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center.

Note: The full text of these priorities is included in the pertinent notices of final priorities published in the Federal Register and in the application package for this program.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(a).

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97. (b) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 350. (c) The notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2006 (71 FR 25472). (d) The notice of final priority for this program, published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: \$850,000.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in FY 2012 from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$850,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: Cost sharing is required under 34 CFR 350.62(a) and will be negotiated at the time of award.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package: You can obtain an application package via the Internet or from the Education Publications Center (ED Pubs). To obtain a copy via the

Internet, use the following address:

www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html.

To obtain a copy from ED Pubs, write, fax, or call the following: ED Pubs, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 22207, Alexandria, VA 22304. Telephone, toll free: 1-877-433-7827. FAX: (703) 605-6794. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call, toll free: 1-877-576-7734.

You can contact ED Pubs at its Web site, also:
www.EDPubs.gov or at its e-mail address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application package from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.133A-7.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the person or team listed under Accessible Format in section VIII of this notice.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission:

Requirements concerning the content of an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this competition.

Page Limit: The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We

recommend that you limit Part III to the equivalent of no more than 100 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).

- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial.

The recommended page limit does not apply to Part I, the cover sheet; Part II, the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; Part IV, the assurances and certifications; or the one-page abstract, the resumes, the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the page limit does apply to all of the application narrative section (Part III).

The application package will provide instructions for completing all components to be included in the application. Each application must include a cover sheet (Standard Form 424); budget requirements (ED Form 524) and narrative budget justification; other required forms; an abstract, Human Subjects

narrative, Part III project narrative; resumes of staff; and other related materials, if applicable.

1. Submission Dates and Times:

Applications Available: June 29, 2011.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting: Interested parties are invited to participate in a pre-application meeting and to receive information and technical assistance through individual consultation with NIDRR staff. The pre-application meeting will be held July 20, 2011. Interested parties may participate in this meeting by conference call with NIDRR staff from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., Washington, DC time. NIDRR staff also will be available from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the same day, by telephone, to provide information and technical assistance through individual consultation. For further information or to make arrangements to participate in the meeting via conference call or for an individual consultation, contact either Lynn Medley or Marlene Spencer as follows: Lynn Medley, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5140, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7338 or by e-mail: Lynn.Medley@ed.gov. Marlene Spencer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133, PCP, Washington,

DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or by e-mail:
Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: August 15, 2011.

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically, or in paper format by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to section IV. 7. Other Submission Requirements of this notice.

We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice. If the Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in this notice.

4. Intergovernmental Review: This program is not subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

5. Funding Restrictions: We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the Applicable Regulations section in this notice.

6. Data Universal Numbering System Number, Taxpayer Identification Number, and Central Contractor Registry: To do business with the Department of Education, you must--

a. Have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN);

b. Register both your DUNS number and TIN with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR), the Government's primary registrant database;

c. Provide your DUNS number and TIN on your application; and

d. Maintain an active CCR registration with current information while your application is under review by the Department and, if you are awarded a grant, during the project period.

You can obtain a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet. A DUNS number can be created within one business day.

If you are a corporate entity, agency, institution, or organization, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service. If you are an individual, you can obtain a TIN from the Internal Revenue Service or the Social Security Administration. If you need a new TIN, please allow 2-5 weeks for your TIN to become active.

The CCR registration process may take five or more business days to complete. If you are currently registered with the CCR, you may not need to make any changes. However, please make certain that the TIN associated with your DUNS number is correct. Also note that you will need to update your CCR registration on an annual basis. This may take three or more business days to complete.

In addition, if you are submitting your application via Grants.gov, you must (1) be designated by your organization as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR); and (2) register yourself with Grants.gov as an AOR. Details on these steps are outlined in the Grants.gov 3-Step Registration Guide (see www.grants.gov/section910/Grants.govRegistrationBrochure.pdf).

7. Other Submission Requirements: Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. Electronic Submission of Applications.

Applications for grants under the ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center competition, CFDA number 84.133A-7, must be submitted electronically using the Governmentwide Grants.gov Apply site at www.Grants.gov. Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package,

complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement.

You may access the electronic grant applications for the ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center competition at www.Grants.gov. You must search for the downloadable application package for this competition by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search (e.g., search for 84.133, not 84.133A).

Please note the following:

- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.
- Applications received by Grants.gov are date and time stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted

and must be date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not accept your application if it is received--that is, date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system--after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date and time stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.

- The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors, including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.

- You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for this competition to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to Grants.gov under News and

Events on the Department's G5 system home page at <http://www.G5.gov>.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.

- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information you typically provide on the following forms: the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424), the Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, Budget Information–Non–Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- You must upload any narrative sections and all other attachments to your application as files in a .PDF (Portable Document) format only. If you upload a file type other than a .PDF or submit a password-protected file, we will not review that material.

- Your electronic application must comply with any page-limit requirements described in this notice.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive from Grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only, not receipt

by the Department.) The Department then will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send a second notification to you by e-mail. This second notification indicates that the Department has received your application and has assigned your application a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).

- We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues with the Grants.gov System: If you are experiencing problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number and must keep a record of it.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions described elsewhere in this notice.

If you submit an application after 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date, please

contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number. We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that that problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: The extensions to which we refer in this section apply only to the unavailability of, or technical problems with, the Grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement: You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because--

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system;

and

- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application.

If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Lynn Medley, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5140, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2700. FAX: (202) 245-7323.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

b. Submission of Paper Applications by Mail.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the

Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-7)
LBJ Basement Level 1
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-4260

You must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

c. Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-7)
550 12th Street, SW.
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

(2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

V. Application Review Information

1. Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 of EDGAR and 34 CFR 350.54 and are listed in the application package.

2. Review and Selection Process: We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217(d) (3), the past performance of the applicant in carrying out a previous award, such as the applicant's use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Secretary may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality.

In addition, in making a competitive grant award, the Secretary also requires various assurances including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Education (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

3. Special Conditions: Under 34 CFR 74.14 and 80.12, the Secretary may impose special conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance; has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 34 CFR parts 74 or 80, as applicable; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices: If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements: We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the Applicable Regulations section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. Reporting: (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. This does not apply if you have an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b).

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html.

4. Performance Measures: To evaluate the overall success of its research program, NIDRR assesses the quality of its funded projects through a review of grantee performance and products. Each year, NIDRR examines a portion of its grantees to determine:

- The number of accomplishments (e.g., new or improved tools, methods, discoveries, standards, interventions, programs, or devices) developed or tested with NIDRR funding that have

been judged by expert panels to be of high quality and to advance the field.

- The average number of publications per award based on NIDRR-funded research and development activities in refereed journals.

- The percentage of new NIDRR grants that assess the effectiveness of interventions, programs, and devices using rigorous methods.

NIDRR uses information submitted by grantees as part of their Annual Performance Reports (APRs) for these reviews.

Department of Education program performance reports, which include information on NIDRR programs, are available on the Department's Web site:

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oepd/sas/index.html.

5. Continuation Awards: In making a continuation award, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.253, the extent to which a grantee has made "substantial progress toward meeting the objectives in its approved application." This consideration includes the review of a grantee's progress in meeting the targets and projected outcomes in its approved application, and whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget. In making a continuation grant, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its

approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

VII. Agency Contacts

For Further Information Contact:

Lynn Medley or Marlene Spencer as follows: Lynn Medley, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5140, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7338 or by e-mail: Lynn.Medley@ed.gov.

Marlene Spencer, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5133, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7532 or by e-mail: Marlene.Spencer@ed.gov.

If you use a TDD call the FRS, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

VIII. Other Information

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the Grants and Contracts Services Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5075, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2550.

Telephone: (202) 245-7363. If you use a TDD call the FRS,
toll-free, at 1-800-877-8339.

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Dated:

Andrew J. Pepin,
Acting Assistant
Secretary for Special
Education and
Rehabilitative Services.

SECTION C

NOTICE OF FINAL PRIORITY

Published: June 29, 2011

4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA Numbers: 84.133A-6, 84.133A-7, and 84.133A-8]

Final Priorities; Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program--Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP)--Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network Regional Centers (formerly the Disability Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs), the ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center, and the ADA National Network Collaborative Research Projects.

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of final priorities.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services announces three priorities under the DRRP program administered by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). Specifically, we announce (1) a priority for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network Regional Centers (Priority 1), (2) a priority for the ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center (Priority 2), and (3) a priority for the ADA National Network Collaborative Research Projects (Priority 3). The Assistant Secretary may use one or more of these priorities for

competitions in fiscal year (FY) 2011 and later years. We take this action to focus attention on areas of national need.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These priorities are effective July 29, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn Medley, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5140, Potomac Center Plaza (PCP), Washington, DC 20202-2700. Telephone: (202) 245-7338 or by e-mail: lynn.medley@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Relay Service, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This notice of final priorities (NFP) is in concert with NIDRR's currently approved Long-Range Plan (Plan). The Plan, which was published in the Federal Register on February 15, 2006 (71 FR 8165), can be accessed on the Internet at the following site: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ose/nidrr/policy.html.

Through the implementation of the Plan, NIDRR seeks to:

- (1) improve the quality and utility of disability and rehabilitation research;
- (2) foster an exchange of expertise, information, and training to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the unique needs of traditionally underserved populations;
- (3) determine the best strategies and programs to improve rehabilitation outcomes for underserved populations;
- (4) identify research gaps;
- (5) identify

mechanisms of integrating research and practice; and (6) disseminate findings.

This notice announces three priorities that NIDRR intends to use for DRRP competitions in FY 2011 and possibly later years. However, nothing precludes NIDRR from publishing additional priorities if needed. Furthermore, NIDRR is under no obligation to make an award for any of these priorities. The decision to make an award will be based on the quality of applications received and available funding.

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities, to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology, that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act).

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects

The purpose of NIDRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) are to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as

amended, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities. DRRPs carry out one or more of the following types of activities, as specified and defined in 34 CFR 350.13 through 350.19: research, training, demonstration, development, dissemination, utilization, and technical assistance.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(a).

Applicable Program Regulations: 34 CFR part 350.

We published a notice of proposed priorities (NPP) for NIDRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program in the Federal Register on March 22, 2011 (76 FR 15964). That notice contained background information and our reasons for proposing priorities for the ADA National Network Regional Centers (ADA Regional Centers), the ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center (ADA KT Center), and the ADA National Network Collaborative Research Projects.

Public Comment: In response to our invitation in the NPP, twelve parties submitted comments on the proposed priorities.

Generally, we do not address technical and other minor changes. In addition, we do not address general comments that raised concerns not directly related to the proposed priorities.

Analysis of Comments and Changes: An analysis of the comments and of any changes in the priority since publication of the NPP follows.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network Regional Centers (Priority 1)

Comment: One commenter asked whether applicants under Priority 1 have the option of proposing research activities.

Discussion: While Priority 1 does not require applicants to propose research activities, nothing in the priority precludes an applicant from proposing research in support of the activities that are required. What is critical is that an applicant addresses all of the required activities in its application.

Changes: None.

Comment: Three commenters noted that paragraph (a) of Priority 1 does not mention outreach and capacity building as key services provided by the ADA Regional Centers. The commenters recommended that NIDRR add those services to the list of activities that collectively make up the ADA Network Services.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that outreach to ADA stakeholders and efforts to build their capacity to facilitate implementation of, and compliance with, the ADA are important services provided by the ADA Regional Centers.

Changes: NIDRR has revised paragraph (a) of Priority 1 to add outreach and capacity building to the list of required ADA Network Services.

Comment: Three commenters recommended that the ADA Regional Centers be required to ensure that all of their online information and information technology tools and products are accessible to individuals with disabilities. The commenters recommended that NIDRR reference standards developed under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (section 508) to ensure that accessibility.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the ADA Regional Centers' Web sites and information technology tools and products must be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities, and will emphasize that requirement by adding a specific reference to it in Priority 1.

Changes: NIDRR has revised the opening paragraph of Priority 1 to state that each ADA Regional Center must ensure that all Web sites and information technology tools and products that the ADA Regional Center develops or maintains are in compliance with the standards developed under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. NIDRR has similarly revised the opening paragraph of Priority 2, as described elsewhere in this notice in the discussion of that priority.

Comment: One commenter recommended that NIDRR revise paragraph (b)(1) of Priority 1 to emphasize that the database maintained by the ADA KT Center must be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Discussion: Priority 1 is not the appropriate place to specify the accessibility requirements that the ADA KT Center must meet to ensure the accessibility of the database or other information technology tools and products developed or maintained by the ADA KT Center. NIDRR received a number of similar comments with respect to Priority 2, the ADA KT Center priority, and will address those comments in the discussion of that priority.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that NIDRR specify in paragraph (b)(1) of Priority 1 permissible methods by which the ADA Regional Centers can submit data to the ADA KT Center's national database. Specifically, the commenter suggested that we make clear that ADA Regional Centers can submit data into the database by direct entry of data, as well as submission of batch data files from their regional databases. This commenter noted that a number of current ADA Regional Centers maintain separate databases, from which they produce, and submit to the national database, batch files of data about the ADA Network Services that they provide.

Discussion: We drafted Priority 1 to require the ADA Regional Center grantees to enter data directly into the database maintained by the ADA KT Center. Under this priority, ADA Regional Centers may not import batch files from their local databases into the ADA KT Center's database. Direct entry into a single ADA National Network database will facilitate the quality and consistency of data that the 10 ADA Regional Centers collect and will help ensure that we accurately describe and account for the services that they collectively provide to ADA stakeholders. By using a single database, rather than multiple ones, we avoid duplication of effort and the inefficient use of Federal resources.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter noted that the three required categories of data enumerated in paragraph (b)(1) of Priority 1 were negotiated and agreed upon by NIDRR, the ADA Regional Centers, and the Coordination, Outreach, and Research Center (CORC) during the 2006-2011 grant funding cycle. This commenter asked if the three data categories listed in paragraph (b)(1) of the priority will be recognized and required in the next funding cycle.

Discussion: Paragraph (b)(1) of Priority 1 identifies three primary categories of data that each ADA Regional Center must collect and enter into the ADA KT Center's database. It is true

that these three categories of data were agreed upon during the 2006-2011 funding cycle. We have included these categories in this priority to provide all applicants with information about the data that NIDRR will require them to collect. Accordingly, entities awarded a grant under Priority 1 would be required to submit at least these categories of data during their grant cycle. We anticipate using this priority in the FY 2011 grant competition.

Changes: None.

Comment: Two commenters suggested that we revise paragraph (b)(1) of Priority 1 to require that the database maintained by the ADA KT Center be "user-friendly" so that the ADA Regional Centers can easily enter the required data.

Discussion: The database referenced by the commenter is operated and maintained by the ADA KT Center, which is funded under Priority 2. Priority 1 is therefore not the appropriate place to address the requirements of the database. NIDRR received a number of similar comments in response to Priority 2, the ADA KT Center priority, and will address those comments in the discussion related to that priority.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter questioned the necessity of funding ten regional centers under this priority. The commenter noted the

potential programmatic efficiency and fiscal benefits of instead having a single ADA technical assistance center.

Discussion: NIDRR believes that the strength of the ADA National Network (that is, the 10 ADA Regional Centers working together with the ADA KT Center and ADA Collaborative Research Projects) exists in the ability of each ADA Regional Center to understand and address the unique regional and local constituent needs for ADA Network Services. Maintaining this regional structure facilitates regional and local relationships and partnerships that foster implementation of, and compliance with the ADA. At the same time, NIDRR aims to create efficiencies in the regional network through the activities of the ADA KT Center. The ADA KT Center is responsible for assisting the ADA Regional Centers to achieve optimal efficiency and impact of their training, technical assistance, and information dissemination activities.

Changes: None.

Comment: Two commenters recommended that, due to the low employment status of individuals with disabilities, NIDRR should prioritize ADA Network Services to U.S. businesses to stimulate the employment or re-employment of individuals with disabilities during the economic recovery.

Discussion: Nothing in Priority 1 precludes grantees from prioritizing the provision of ADA Network Services, including

providing training and technical assistance on Title I of the ADA, to employers. However, the requirements in the ADA also apply to a wide range of public services and public accommodations, and the ADA Regional Centers must provide ADA Network Services that are responsive to the needs of a wide variety of individuals and entities with rights and responsibilities under all Titles of the ADA.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that we revise Priority 1 to require the ADA Regional Centers to provide training and technical assistance focused on several specific topic areas. The commenter suggested that the ADA Regional Centers be required to provide training and technical assistance on accessible communication and information technology. The commenter also stated that the ADA Regional Centers should be required to provide training and technical assistance focusing on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. This commenter also recommended that Priority 1 be revised to require training and technical assistance focusing on accessible voting for individuals with disabilities.

Discussion: Under Priority 1, the ADA Regional Centers are required to implement a sustained program of ADA Network Services that are designed to contribute to the improved understanding by ADA stakeholders of their rights and

responsibilities under the ADA. In paragraph (a) of the priority, we make clear that we anticipate that ADA stakeholders will need information on longstanding ADA requirements as well as recent changes affecting those requirements and information on issues associated with ADA compliance in emerging areas, such as access to information technologies and emergency management services. The priority does not provide an exhaustive list of required topic areas because we expect each ADA Regional Center to design its services to meet the specific needs of the ADA stakeholders it serves. Accordingly, while not specifically listed in the priority, ADA Regional Centers should be prepared to provide training and technical assistance on the topics mentioned by these commenters, as well as on all aspects of employment of people with disabilities, and on the wide variety of public services and accommodations covered by the ADA.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that we revise Priority 1 to require the ADA Regional Centers to address the needs of transition-age youth in their information dissemination and training activities. The commenter noted that there is little Federal funding supporting programs that teach transition-age youth about their rights and responsibilities under the ADA. This commenter also recommended that Priority 1 require ADA Regional Centers to provide training and resources related to

implementation of the U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead decision.

The commenter noted the importance of training in this area for youth with disabilities who lose home care services as they age out of childhood Medicare programs.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that transition-age youth with disabilities are an important ADA stakeholder group, and that training and technical assistance related to implementation of the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision may be of specific assistance to them as they seek community supports and services. However, NIDRR does not require the provision of training and technical assistance to specific groups of ADA stakeholders, nor does it require training and technical assistance on specific public programs and policies such as those that implement the Olmstead decision. ADA Regional Centers should be prepared to provide training and technical assistance to the wide range of individuals and entities with rights and responsibilities under the ADA, including transition-age youth with disabilities, and on the wide variety of public services and accommodations covered by the ADA, as part of their general responsibility under the priority to implement a sustained program of ADA Network Services that improves understanding by ADA stakeholders of their rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter stated that in the wake of recent Federal legislation such as the 2008 amendments to the ADA, and the recent health care reform legislation there is a need for training and information on the accessibility of recreation facilities and medical equipment frequently used by children and youth with disabilities. The commenter suggested that the ADA Regional Centers should provide this training and information.

Discussion: While NIDRR does not require the provision of training and technical assistance on specific topics such as accessibility of recreation facilities and medical equipment, we expect the ADA Regional Centers to tailor the ADA Network Services to the needs of the ADA stakeholders in its region. Therefore, ADA Regional Centers should be prepared to provide training and technical assistance on the wide variety of public services and accommodations covered by the ADA and this very well may include the accessibility of recreation facilities and medical equipment.

Changes: None.

Comment: Two commenters suggested that NIDRR revise Priority 1 to more clearly describe the role of the ADA Regional Centers as outlets for knowledge translation. One of these commenters suggested that NIDRR require each ADA Regional Center to develop a regional knowledge translation plan.

Discussion: NIDRR does not agree that a more prescriptive approach to the role of the ADA Regional Centers, or requiring each ADA Regional Center to develop a regional KT plan would improve ADA Network Services. The core function of the ADA Regional Centers is knowledge translation in that ADA Regional Centers must translate and deliver available ADA knowledge and information to ADA stakeholders through outreach, training, technical assistance, information dissemination, and capacity building. We believe that Priority 1 provides grantees with an appropriate framework to ensure these knowledge translation activities are carried out, while giving grantees the flexibility they need to provide services that are responsive to the specific knowledge and information needs of the ADA stakeholders in their regions.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that NIDRR revise Priority 1 to add "legal updates" to the list of information services and products to be delivered under paragraph (c)(1).

Discussion: NIDRR does not intend the list of materials, products, and services in paragraph (c)(1) of Priority 1 to be exhaustive. Nothing in the priority precludes ADA Regional Center applicants from proposing to provide legal updates under paragraph (c)(1). However, NIDRR does not have a sufficient basis for requiring all applicants to do so.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that we revise Priority 1 to require ADA Regional Centers to collaborate and coordinate with the Department's AT Act programs in their respective region when conducting training, technical assistance, outreach, and dissemination activities.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that collaboration between the ADA Regional Centers and the AT Act programs may help in the provision of training and technical assistance, and in expanding outreach and dissemination efforts to ADA stakeholders. Nothing in Priority 1 precludes applicants from proposing partnerships with AT Act programs. At the same time, NIDRR does not have a sufficient basis for requiring all applicants to do so.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that the ADA Regional Centers collaborate with the Parent Training Information Centers and the Community Parent Resource Centers funded by the Department's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), and Parent Information and Training projects funded by the Department's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), in order to provide ADA information and training to families of children and youth with disabilities.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that these partnerships may facilitate the provision of ADA information to families and parents of

children and youth with disabilities. Nothing in Priority 1 precludes applicants from proposing partnerships with Parent Training and Information Projects funded by OSEP, or Parent Training and Information Projects funded by the RSA. At the same time, NIDRR does not have a sufficient basis for requiring all applicants to do so. Applicants for the ADA Regional Centers have a large number of potential collaborators and dissemination partners. NIDRR does not want to limit applicants' choices by requiring partnerships with a limited set of entities.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter asked if two organizations can partner to apply for one ADA Regional Center, and if so, which applicant would be awarded the grant.

Discussion: Two or more organizations can partner to submit an application under the ADA Regional Center priority. Eligible applicants include States, public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations. In submitting an application, partnering applicants must designate which organization will serve as the lead applicant. Parts 75.127-75.129 of the Education Department General Administrative

Regulations (EDGAR) describe requirements for group applications.

Changes: None.

Priority 2--ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center

Comment: One commenter suggested that NIDRR specifically include RSA when referencing the Network's "Federal partners" in paragraph (a)(4) of Priority 2.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that RSA is an important Federal partner. In paragraph (a)(4) of Priority 2, which relates to annual meetings of the ADA National Network Project Directors, we have only specifically identified the U.S. Department of Justice and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission because these partners have direct responsibility for enforcing the ADA. However, we also make clear in paragraph (a)(4) of Priority 2 that the ADA KT Center may include "other relevant agencies" in its organization of annual meetings of the ADA Regional Centers' Project Directors meetings and RSA could certainly be included under this category.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that NIDRR require the ADA KT Center to partner with OSEP's network of Parent Training and Information Projects, as well as with RSA's Parent Training and Information Projects. The commenter noted that families of children with disabilities do not have adequate knowledge of the

responsibilities of day care providers under the ADA, or of how families of children with disabilities may be protected by specific ADA provisions. The commenter recommended that we require the ADA KT Center to enter into these partnerships to ensure that targeted ADA information is provided to families and parents of children with disabilities, and to child care providers.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that these partnerships may help ensure that ADA information is provided to families and parents of children with disabilities. Nothing in Priority 2 precludes applicants from proposing partnerships with OSEP's Parent Training and Information Projects or RSA's Parent Training and Information Projects. However, NIDRR does not have a sufficient basis for requiring all applicants to do so. Applicants for this ADA KT Center have a large number of potential collaborators and dissemination partners with whom they may wish to work. NIDRR does not want to limit applicants' choices by requiring partnerships with a limited set of entities.

Changes: None.

Comment: Two commenters noted that paragraph (a) of Priority 2 does not mention outreach and capacity building as key services provided by the ADA Regional Centers. The commenters recommended that NIDRR revise the priority to include those activities in the list of ADA Network Services.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that outreach to ADA stakeholders, and efforts to build their capacity to facilitate implementation of and compliance with the ADA, are important services provided by the ADA National Network, including the ADA KT Center.

Changes: NIDRR has revised paragraph (a) of Priority 2 to add outreach and capacity building to the list of required ADA Network Services.

Comment: One commenter noted the importance of the ADA KT Center's toll-free telephone number as a way for ADA stakeholders to contact the ADA National Network and receive technical assistance on the ADA. This commenter recommended that the ADA KT Center be required to maintain, administer, and provide logistical and financial support for the ADA National Network's toll-free telephone number.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that this toll-free telephone number is an important resource for ADA stakeholders to contact the ADA National Network. Although NIDRR expects the 10 ADA Regional Centers and the ADA KT Center to negotiate and implement the most efficient means of maintenance and administration of this resource, it is beyond the scope of this priority to prescribe the mechanisms by which telephone services for the ADA National Network will be maintained.

Changes: None.

Comment: Three commenters recommended that we revise Priority 2 to require the ADA KT Center to ensure that all of its online information and information technology tools and products are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Specifically, the commenters recommended that NIDRR revise the priority to require that these online tools and products comply with standards developed in accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act to ensure their accessibility.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the Web sites and information technology tools and products of the ADA KT Center should be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities, and will emphasize the requirement by adding a specific reference to it in Priority 2.

Changes: NIDRR has revised the opening paragraph of Priority 2 to state that the ADA KT Center must ensure that all Web sites and information technology tools and products it develops or maintains are in compliance with the standards developed under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. NIDRR has similarly revised the opening paragraph of Priority 1, as described elsewhere in this notice, in the discussion of that priority.

Comment: Two commenters recommended that Priority 2 require that the ADA KT Center ensure that all of their online information and information technology tools and products are user-friendly.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the database maintained by the ADA KT Center under paragraph (d)(1) of Priority 2 should be easy to use for the ADA Regional Center staff who must use it. The users of this database are a small group of ADA Regional Center grantees. Under paragraph (d)(1) of Priority 2, the ADA KT Center is required to ensure a user-friendly interface for these users. For the other online information and information technology tools and products that are described in Priority 2, there are a large number of users with varying needs. Because "user-friendliness" can vary widely depending on the user, and in the absence of agreed-upon, enforceable standards for the "user-friendliness" of online information and information technology tools and products, NIDRR does not believe it can apply this requirement broadly as part of Priority 2.

Changes: None.

Comment: Two commenters suggested that the ADA KT Center should be required to collaborate with the ADA Regional Centers under paragraph (b)(2) of Priority 2, to identify knowledge gaps among ADA stakeholders and related ADA research topics.

Discussion: Priority 2 requires the ADA KT Center to collaborate directly with ADA stakeholders to help identify ADA knowledge gaps. Although Proposed Priority 2 did not explicitly say so, the ADA KT Center may propose to collaborate with the ADA Regional Centers to help identify ADA knowledge gaps among

ADA stakeholders, a point we will clarify in the final priority. However, NIDRR believes that making this collaboration a requirement could limit opportunities and resources for other appropriate and innovative collaborations related to this task. For this reason, we will not require this collaboration under the priority.

Changes: NIDRR has revised paragraph (b) (2) of Priority 2 to state that the ADA KT Center may collaborate with the ADA Regional Centers to help identify ADA knowledge gaps.

Comment: Two commenters suggested that, under paragraph (d) (1) of Priority 2, the ADA KT Center should be required to collaborate with the ADA Regional Centers to continue the operation and maintenance of the existing database for data submitted by each of the ADA Regional Centers.

Discussion: The operation and maintenance of a database involves a variety of ongoing tasks to ensure that software and hardware are fully functional and available for use. These tasks to be carried out by the ADA KT Center do not require direct collaboration with the ADA Regional Centers. However, under paragraph (d) (4) of Priority 2, the ADA KT Center is required to collaborate with NIDRR and the ADA Regional Centers to ensure that the database is accurate, comprehensive, easy-to-use, and up-to-date.

Changes: None.

Comment: Three commenters suggested that the ADA KT Center should be required to collaborate with the ADA Regional Centers under paragraph (d)(2) of Priority 2, in order to help identify the training and technical assistance needs related to analysis and use of the database.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the ADA KT Center should be required to work with the ADA Regional Centers to identify the ADA Regional Centers' database-related training and technical assistance needs so that the ADA KT Center is better able to tailor the training and technical assistance services it provides to the needs of the ADA Regional Centers.

Changes: NIDRR has revised paragraph (d)(2) of Priority 2 to require the ADA KT Center to identify the database-related training and technical assistance needs of the ten ADA Regional Centers.

Comment: Three commenters suggested that NIDRR revise paragraph (d)(2) of Priority 2 to specify that the provision of database-related training and technical assistance should be on an as-needed basis.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the ADA KT Center should provide database-related training and technical assistance to the ADA Regional Centers on an as-needed basis. NIDRR also believes that the ADA KT Center must provide regular, consistent training and technical assistance to all 10 ADA Regional Centers to help

ensure the quality and consistency of data that are gathered and entered directly into the database by the Regional Centers.

Changes: NIDRR has revised paragraph (d) of Priority 2 to specify that the ADA KT Center must provide formal, scheduled training and technical assistance to all 10 ADA Regional Centers on the use of the database and that the ADA KT Center must provide targeted database-related training and technical assistance to individual centers on an as-needed basis.

Comment: Three commenters noted that paragraphs (d)(3) and (d)(4) of Priority 2 appear to be duplicative and suggested that NIDRR delete the data-quality monitoring requirements in paragraph (d)(3) of Priority 2.

Discussion: NIDRR does not agree that these paragraphs have duplicative requirements. Paragraph (d)(3) requires regular and ongoing monitoring of data quality. Monitoring for data quality includes, for example, analyses to determine rates of missing or incomplete data, and analyses to determine whether data fall within the specified ranges of response options. The requirements in paragraph (d)(4) are broader, and involve ongoing discussions to ensure that the data fields and response options accurately reflect up-to-date ADA policies and regulations, as well as discussions about how to optimize the user-friendliness of the database.

Changes: None.

Comment: Three commenters asked NIDRR to require that the database described in paragraph (d)(1) of Priority 2 allow the ADA Regional Centers to generate reports that support their Annual Performance Reporting requirements.

Discussion: NIDRR believes that this request is already sufficiently covered by the requirement in paragraph (d)(1) of Priority 2, which states that the database must provide data retrieval capabilities. The detailed information in the database can be used by the ADA Regional Centers aggregated to produce reports that meet ADA Regional Centers' more general annual performance reporting requirements for NIDRR.

Changes: None.

Comment: Two commenters asked whether NIDRR intended to transfer the database described under paragraph (d)(1) from the DBTAC CORC to the new ADA KT Center. The commenters asked NIDRR to provide details about the existing database software framework and design so that applicants can prepare a cost estimate for the requirement to operate and maintain the database.

Discussion: NIDRR does intend to transfer the database described under paragraph (d)(1) to the new ADA KT Center. NIDRR will make information about the database software framework and design available to interested applicants. Applicants that are

interested in receiving this information should contact the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION in this notice.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter noted that the existing database described in paragraph (d)(1) of Priority 2 is designed to collect information about the delivery of ADA Network Services. This commenter recommended that NIDRR require the ADA KT Center to work with the ADA Regional Centers to design a system for measuring the outcomes of ADA Network Services.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that the addition of a formal mechanism for measuring the outcomes of the ADA Network Services would benefit the Network and its stakeholders and will therefore make a change to this effect in paragraph (d) of Priority 2.

Changes: NIDRR has added a provision to paragraph (d) to require the development and implementation of a process and system for measuring and tracking the outcomes of ADA Network Services.

Comment: One commenter recommended that NIDRR revise paragraph (a)(2) of Priority 2 to further specify that the ADA KT Center must work with each individual ADA Regional Center to develop regional KT plans, and then work with the 10 ADA Regional Centers to organize the most effective strategies to optimize the efficiency and impact of the ADA Network Services.

Discussion: NIDRR does not agree that the outcome of optimal efficiency and impact of the ADA National Network Services would be facilitated by requiring each ADA Regional Center to work with the ADA KT Center to develop a regional KT plan. Such a requirement would be redundant with the core function of the ADA Regional Centers, which is to translate and deliver available ADA information and knowledge to ADA stakeholders.

Changes: None.

Comment: Two commenters suggested that NIDRR revise paragraph (d)(1) of Priority 2 to specify the methods by which the ADA Regional Centers will submit data to the database to include direct entry of data, and submission of batch files.

Discussion: Priority 2, the ADA KT Center priority, is not the appropriate place to specify the methods by which the ADA Regional Centers will submit data to the database. NIDRR received a number of similar comments on Priority 1, the ADA Regional Center priority, and addressed those comments there.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that the ADA KT Center consider the impact of policy and practice on ADA research.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that ADA research should be informed by, and be relevant to, ADA policy and practice. Under paragraph (b)(2) of Priority 2, the ADA KT Center must collaborate with ADA stakeholders to determine ADA knowledge

gaps. Nothing in the priority precludes applicants from proposing collaborations with policymakers, service providers, and other relevant stakeholders to determine knowledge gaps and shape future ADA research topics.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter recommended that NIDRR revise paragraph (a)(3) of Priority 2 to allow applicants to either propose to maintain the current ADA document portal, or to propose an alternative mechanism so that ADA Regional Centers and ADA stakeholders can have easy access to ADA documents that they need.

Discussion: NIDRR agrees that applicants for the ADA KT Center should be allowed to propose alternatives and improvements to the current ADA document portal.

Changes: NIDRR has revised paragraph (a)(3) of Priority 2 to allow applicants to propose and implement new methods that allow fast and efficient identification and retrieval of documents relevant to the ADA.

Priority 3--ADA National Network Collaborative Research Projects

Comment: Several commenters questioned the eligibility requirement in the opening paragraph of Priority 3, which states that eligibility is restricted to applicants that have received a grant under the ADA Regional Center priority. Three commenters suggested that other entities, including other NIDRR

grantees with expertise that is relevant to the ADA, should be allowed to apply. Another commenter questioned the eligibility limitation because, in the commenter's view, the ADA Regional Centers are not able to conduct research that is national in scope.

Discussion: NIDRR's ADA National Network program is evolving into a network of grantees that is capable of conducting multi-site research and generating new knowledge of national significance related to ADA implementation and compliance. NIDRR has designed Priority 3 to utilize this network. Therefore, only ADA Regional Centers are eligible to apply as lead applicants under Priority 3. While the lead applicant must be an ADA Regional Center, applicants are free to include research partners that are not part of the ADA National Network in their research proposal.

With regard to the commenter that stated that the ADA Regional Centers are not able to provide research that is national in scope, NIDRR believes that the network of ADA Regional Centers does have the capacity to conduct high-quality, multi-site ADA research that is of national significance. NIDRR requires lead applicants to collaborate with three or more ADA Regional Centers to help ensure that the research is of significance to all U.S. regions.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that restricting the eligibility to ADA Regional Centers in Priority 3 would limit applicants' choice of research partners.

Discussion: Nothing in Priority 3 restricts applicants in their choice of research partners. While applicants must propose to collaborate with at least three additional ADA Regional Centers, they may also propose an unlimited number of research partners that are not part of the ADA National Network.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter asked whether each ADA Regional Center is expected to participate in an ADA Collaborative Research Project.

Discussion: ADA Regional Centers are not required to participate in an ADA Collaborative Research Project.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter asked NIDRR to set minimum budget commitments for ADA Regional Centers who participate in ADA Collaborative Research Projects.

Discussion: NIDRR has not set minimum budgets for ADA Regional Centers that choose to participate in ADA Collaborative Research Projects because the costs for the ADA Regional Center's participation in an ADA Collaborative Research Project are covered under the Collaborative Research grant. The recipients of the Collaborative Research Project grants under Priority 3

are expected to subcontract with the other participating ADA Regional Centers.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter asked whether, under Priority 3, the new ADA KT Center would be eligible to apply for an ADA Collaborative Research grant.

Discussion: Receiving an award under Priority 2, the ADA KT Center priority, does not make that grantee eligible for an award under the ADA National Network Collaborative Research Projects priority. An applicant must have received a grant under Priority 1, the ADA National Network Regional Center priority, in order to be eligible for an ADA National Network Collaborative Research grant.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter expressed concern that NIDRR may be focusing exclusively on employment-related ADA research, to the exclusion of ADA research that focuses on participation and community living or health and function outcomes. The commenter asked NIDRR to add language to Priority 3 to emphasize that the priority is not solely focused on employment-related research.

Discussion: Nothing in Priority 3 precludes applicants from focusing their ADA research on questions related to participation and community living outcomes, or health and function outcomes. The priority makes clear that applicants

must conduct research on one or more areas in the ADA, and may focus their research on one or more titles in the ADA – not just employment-related research that would be relevant under Title I. NIDRR does not believe that there is anything in Priority 3 that emphasizes one area of ADA research over others.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter suggested that Priority 3 emphasize research that explores the connections and emerging policy issues that arise between the ADA and other statutes that promote inclusion of people with disabilities, including the Air Carrier Access Act, Fair Housing Act, Transportation Act, and Communications Act.

Discussion: Nothing in Priority 3 precludes applicants from proposing collaborative research on these policy topics.

However, NIDRR does not have sufficient basis to require all applicants to do so.

Changes: None.

Comment: One commenter asked whether the ADA Collaborative Research Projects would be restricted to large database exploration, or if development, intervention, and utility studies would be encouraged.

Discussion: Priority 3 does not restrict the type of research studies that can be proposed and conducted. The priority only specifies that applicants must use appropriate and clearly-

identified research designs to generate reliable and valid findings.

Changes: None.

FINAL PRIORITIES:

Priority 1--Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network Regional Centers.

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of 10 Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) to serve as the ADA National Network Regional Centers (formerly known as Disability Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs)), one within each of the 10 U.S. Department of Education regions that cover the United States. Together, the 10 ADA National Network Regional Centers (ADA Regional Centers), along with the ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center (ADA KT Center, funded under a separate priority) and the ADA Collaborative Research Projects (funded under a separate priority) will comprise the ADA National Network.

Each ADA Regional Center must ensure that all Web sites and information technology tools and products that the ADA Regional Center develops or maintains are in compliance with standards developed under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d).

Each ADA Regional Center must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Improved understanding by ADA stakeholders of their rights and responsibilities under the ADA. Each ADA Regional Center must contribute to this outcome by implementing a sustained program of outreach, training, technical assistance, information dissemination, and capacity building (collectively, ADA Network Services), aimed at ADA stakeholders, including local, regional, and national groups representing such stakeholders. NIDRR anticipates that ADA stakeholders will need information on both longstanding ADA requirements as well as recent legislative and regulatory changes affecting those requirements, such as the ADA Amendments Act, the revised title II and III regulations (28 CFR parts 35 and 36, respectively), the anticipated revisions to the title I regulations (29 CFR part 1630), and information on issues associated with ADA compliance in emerging areas such as access to information technologies and emergency management services. For purposes of this priority, the term "ADA stakeholders" refers to individuals and entities with rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

(b) Improved understanding of ADA stakeholders' need for and receipt of ADA Network Services over time, including services to address emerging issues related to compliance with

ADA requirements. Each of the 10 ADA Regional Centers must contribute to this outcome by--

(1) Entering, directly into the database maintained by the ADA KT Center, the required data about each of the ADA Network Services that it provides. These data must include, but are not limited to, (1) the ADA title or titles, regulations, and specific topics that are addressed by the ADA Network Services provided, (2) the modality of service provision (e.g., in-person presentation, webinar), and (3) non-personally identifiable information about the recipient or recipients of the ADA Network Services;

(2) Collaborating with the ADA KT Center to analyze data about ADA stakeholder requests for information and the services that the ADA Regional Center provides, and applying new knowledge from those analyses to further tailor and improve the provision of ADA Network Services; and

(3) Identifying and implementing other appropriate methods for assessing the needs of ADA stakeholders.

(c) Enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of ADA Network Services. Each of the ten ADA Regional Centers must contribute to this outcome by--

(1) Partnering with the ADA KT Center and other ADA Regional Centers to develop, provide, and distribute ADA training and technical assistance materials, and other

informational products and services. These materials, products, and services include, but are not limited to, the ADA National Network Web site, as well as materials, products, and services that are relevant to ADA stakeholders in multiple regions.

(2) Attending and participating in the annual meetings of the ADA Regional Centers' Project Directors, to be held in Washington, DC.

Priority 2-- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network Knowledge Translation Center (ADA KT Center).

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of a Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) to serve as an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network Knowledge Translation Center (ADA KT Center). For purposes of this priority, the term "ADA stakeholders" refers to individuals and entities with rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

The ADA KT Center must ensure that all Web sites and information technology tools and products that it develops or maintains are in compliance with standards developed under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d).

Under this priority, the ADA KT Center must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Optimal efficiency and impact of the ADA National Network's outreach, training, technical assistance, information dissemination, and capacity building activities (ADA Network Services). The ADA KT Center must contribute to this outcome by--

(1) Establishing and implementing an online system to enable the 10 ADA Regional Centers to share training and technical assistance documents and other materials;

(2) Facilitating the joint development of ADA products and materials by the 10 ADA Regional Centers in content areas in which it is possible to maximize resources and avoid duplication of efforts;

(3) Serving as the central repository for ADA National Network information and products, and maintaining ADA Network document portals and Web sites currently funded by NIDRR. In this role, the ADA KT Center may propose new methods and approaches to ensure fast and efficient identification and retrieval of ADA documents by ADA Regional Centers and ADA stakeholders; and

(4) Organizing and providing logistical and financial support for annual meetings of the ADA Regional Centers' Project Directors in Washington, DC. These meetings will facilitate collaboration between the 10 ADA Regional Centers, and will allow the Project Directors of the ADA Regional Centers to meet

and share information directly with their Federal partners in the U.S. Department of Justice, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and other relevant agencies.

(b) Increased use of available ADA-related research findings to inform behavior, practices, or policies that improve equal access in society for individuals with disabilities. The ADA KT Center must contribute to this outcome by--

(1) Systematically reviewing existing ADA-related research. The ADA KT Center must identify and conduct systematic reviews of individual ADA research studies to assess the quality of those studies and to synthesize the findings from those studies. In so doing, the ADA KT Center must select appropriate review methods, taking into account the type of research and stage of knowledge development in each area of ADA research. These areas may include, but are not limited to research on specific titles of the ADA, research on ADA issues in specific industries, and research on ADA issues that are relevant to individuals with specific types of disabilities; and

(2) Identifying, for future research, topics that would provide new knowledge or tools to help individuals with rights and responsibilities under the ADA (ADA stakeholders) implement and comply with the ADA. The ADA KT Center must identify future research topics based on the information gathered through the systematic reviews conducted under paragraph (b)(1) of this

priority, in combination with information about gaps in ADA stakeholder knowledge related to ADA implementation. The ADA KT Center must collaborate with ADA stakeholders, which may include the ADA Regional Centers, to determine these knowledge gaps.

(c) Increased awareness and utilization of ADA-related research findings by appropriate ADA stakeholder groups. The ADA KT Center must contribute to this outcome by--

(1) Combining or adapting knowledge translation approaches from the existing literature to disseminate and promote the use of ADA-related research generated by the ADA National Network Collaborative Research Projects (funded under a separate priority) and other NIDRR grantees as appropriate; and

(2) Organizing and providing logistical and financial support for a conference on ADA-related research. This conference must highlight research findings produced by the ADA National Network Research Collaborative Research Projects and other ADA researchers. This conference must take place in year five of the ADA National Network grant cycle.

(d) Improved understanding of ADA stakeholders' need for and receipt of ADA Network Services over time, including services to address emerging issues related to compliance with ADA requirements. The ADA KT Center must contribute to this outcome by--

(1) Continuing the operation and maintenance of the existing database for data submitted by each of the ADA Regional Centers. This database was previously known as the Outcome Measurement System, and is presently operated by the DBTAC Coordination, Outreach, and Research Center (CORC). This database was designed to contain data on each DBTAC's core activities, including training, technical assistance, public awareness events, and dissemination of materials. In operating and maintaining this database, the ADA KT Center must ensure confidentiality of personally identifiable information, and provide quality control and data-retrieval capabilities, using cost-effective technologies and a user-friendly interface;

(2) Working with the 10 ADA Regional Centers to identify their database-related training and technical assistance needs, and provide training and technical assistance on analyzing data and using the database. The ADA KT Center must provide this formal, scheduled training and technical assistance to all 10 ADA Regional Centers. The ADA KT Center must also provide targeted database-related training and technical assistance to individual ADA Regional Centers on an as-needed basis;

(3) Monitoring the quality of data submitted by the ADA Regional Centers;

(4) Collaborating with NIDRR and the ADA Regional Centers to ensure that the database is accurate, comprehensive, easy to use, and up-to-date; and

(5) Working with NIDRR and the ADA Regional Centers to develop and implement a system for measuring and tracking the outcomes of ADA National Network Services.

Priority 3--ADA National Network Collaborative Research Projects.

The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services establishes a priority for the funding of Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) to serve as National ADA Network Collaborative Research Projects (Collaboratives). Each Collaborative must be designed to contribute to knowledge of national significance related to ADA implementation and compliance. To be eligible under this priority, an applicant must have received a grant under the ADA National Network Regional Center priority (Priority 1). Each Collaborative must conduct research using the regional structure of the ADA National Network as a foundation for multi-site research that would inform ADA implementation efforts. Each Collaborative must consist of the applicant and an additional three or more of the NIDRR-funded ADA Regional Centers (for a minimum of four ADA Regional Centers). In addition, each Collaborative may include researchers who are not a part of the

ADA National Network. For purposes of this priority, the term "ADA stakeholders" refers to individuals and entities with rights and responsibilities under the ADA. Each Collaborative must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

(a) Improved knowledge related to ADA implementation. The Collaborative must contribute to this outcome by--

(1) Conducting research on one or more areas in the ADA. These areas may include, but are not limited to research on specific titles of the ADA, research on ADA issues in specific industries, or research on ADA issues that are relevant to individuals with specific types of disabling conditions;

(2) Addressing research questions or hypotheses of national significance that are directly relevant to individuals and entities with rights and responsibilities under the ADA (ADA stakeholders); and

(3) Using appropriate and clearly-identified research designs to generate reliable and valid findings.

(b) Improved ADA stakeholder awareness and utilization of research findings produced by the ADA National Network. The Collaboratives must contribute to this outcome by--

(1) Preparing research products (e.g., articles and presentations) that describe the findings of the Collaborative's research. The Collaboratives must also share these research products and research findings with the ADA Regional Centers and the ADA KT Center, which the Department intends to fund under

separate priorities, for further dissemination to ADA stakeholders; and

(2) Participating in the ADA National Network research conference.

Types of Priorities:

When inviting applications for a competition using one or more priorities, we designate the type of each priority as absolute, competitive preference, or invitational through a notice in the Federal Register. The effect of each type of priority follows:

Absolute priority: Under an absolute priority, we consider only applications that meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(3)).

Competitive preference priority: Under a competitive preference priority, we give competitive preference to an application by (1) awarding additional points, depending on the extent to which the application meets the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i)); or (2) selecting an application that meets the priority over an application of comparable merit that does not meet the priority (34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(ii)).

Invitational priority: Under an invitational priority, we are particularly interested in applications that meet the priority. However, we do not give an application that meets the priority a preference over other applications (34 CFR 75.105(c)(1)).

This notice does not preclude us from proposing additional priorities, requirements, definitions, or selection criteria, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

Note: This notice does not solicit applications. In any year in which we choose to use these priorities, we invite applications through a notice in the Federal Register.

Executive Order 12866: This notice has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12866. Under the terms of the order, we have assessed the potential costs and benefits of this final regulatory action.

The potential costs associated with this final regulatory action are those resulting from statutory requirements and those we have determined as necessary for administering this program effectively and efficiently.

In assessing the potential costs and benefits--both quantitative and qualitative--of this final regulatory action, we have determined that the benefits of the final priorities justify the costs.

Summary of potential costs and benefits:

The benefits of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) have been well established over the years in that similar projects have been completed successfully. These final priorities will provide training and technical assistance related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and

generate new knowledge through research and development.

Another benefit of these final priorities is that the establishment of the ADA National Network will improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. The new DRRPs will generate, disseminate, and promote the use of information about the ADA that will improve the options for individuals with disabilities to perform regular activities in the community.

Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the Grants and Contracts Services Team, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5075, PCP, Washington, DC 20202-2550. Telephone: (202) 245-7363. If you use a TDD, call the FRS, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

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Dated:

Andrew J. Pepin,
Acting Assistant
Secretary for Special
Education and
Rehabilitative Services.

SECTION D

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

Background: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (ADA), 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, State and local government activities, and telecommunications.

Since 1991, NIDRR has supported grants to 10 regional Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs), which provide ADA training, technical assistance, and ADA-related materials to individuals and entities with rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

In years 2006-2010, NIDRR made several key changes in the DBTAC program. Specifically, NIDRR added a research component to the scope of the DBTAC program, established a DBTAC Coordination, Outreach, and Research Center (DBTAC CORC) (See notice of final priorities published in the Federal Register on June 9, 2006 (71 FR 33562)), and expanded DBTAC data collection requirements in order to provide more thorough and descriptive reports on the volume and content of the services that the DBTACs provide.

NIDRR made these changes in order to (a) better align the DBTACs with NIDRR's research mission, and (b) enable the DBTACs to develop new knowledge about the ADA and DBTAC activities in order to enhance ongoing training, technical assistance, and dissemination activities. Over the past five years, the DBTACs

have published numerous journal articles, held a series of research conferences, and conducted other knowledge translation activities to share the new knowledge about the ADA gained from their research. Examples of key research topics include access to postsecondary education among students with disabilities, access to healthcare services among people with disabilities, and reasonable accommodations in the workplace. NIDRR intends to continue these research and data collection activities in the coming grant cycle by funding the ADA National Network Regional Centers, the ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center, and the ADA National Network Research Collaborative.

In addition to these NIDRR-initiated changes, there have also been key changes in legislation and regulations since the last competition for the DBTAC program. For example, in 2008, the ADA Amendments Act (Public Law 110-325) was signed into law. The ADA Amendments Act clarifies and expands the definition of disability through several new provisions. These include a provision that affirms that mitigating measures (e.g., medication, assistive technology, accommodations) have no bearing in determining whether an individual meets the definition of having a disability and another provision that clarifies the extent to which the ADA covers individuals with disabilities that are episodic or in remission. In 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice published new regulations

implementing titles II and III of the ADA (28 CFR part 35 and 28 CFR part 36). In 2011, The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission plans to publish new regulations implementing title I of the ADA (29 CFR part 1630).

In addition, a number of ADA compliance issues have gained more attention in recent years, including access to information technologies (National Council on Disability, 2006) and to emergency management services (National Council on Disability, 2009, U.S. Department of Education, 2008, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2005). These legislative and regulatory changes and emerging issues highlight a continuing need for NIDRR to support activities to raise awareness of, and promote compliance with, the ADA. To address this need, NIDRR proposes three priorities under which it would fund an ADA National Network that would replace the DBTAC program.

Under Proposed Priority 1, we would establish 10 ADA National Network Regional Centers (ADA Regional Centers) that would constitute the core of the ADA National Network. These ADA Regional Centers would provide comprehensive training and technical assistance and would disseminate materials to individuals and entities with rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

Under Proposed Priority 2, we would fund the ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center (ADA KT Center). The ADA

KT Center would maintain the ADA National Network Web site; review and synthesize the existing ADA research literature; maintain a detailed database describing the training, technical assistance, and dissemination activities provided by the ADA National Network; and promote the use of ADA research to implement the ADA more effectively. This ADA KT Center would also provide logistical and financial support for annual meetings of the Project Directors of the 10 ADA Regional Centers and for a conference on ADA-related research.

Under Proposed Priority 3, we would fund two collaborative research grants that contribute to ADA knowledge of national significance. This priority would allow the ADA Regional Centers to conduct collaborative research using the regional network structure as a foundation for multi-site research to inform ADA implementation and to improve the performance of the ADA National Network.

References:

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Effective emergency management: Making improvements for communities and people with disabilities. Retrieved December 7, 2010, from
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U.S. Department of Education. (2008, April). Emergency management research and people with disabilities: A research guide. Retrieved December 7, 2010, from <http://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/index.html#emergencyguide>.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2005, July 21). Individuals with disabilities in emergency preparedness. Retrieved December 7, 2010, from <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/crcl-icc-report-july05.pdf>.

SECTION E

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF DRRPs

GENERAL DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH PROJECTS (DRRP) REQUIREMENTS

BACKGROUND:

NIDRR proposes the following General DRRP Requirements priority because it believes that the effectiveness of any DRRP (including any DBTAC) depends on, among other things, how well the DRRP coordinates its research efforts with the research of other NIDRR-funded projects, involves individuals with disabilities in its activities, and identifies specific anticipated outcomes that are linked to its objectives in applying for DRRP funding. Accordingly, NIDRR intends to use the General DRRP Requirements in conjunction with all of the other DRRP priorities NIDRR proposes.

PRIORITY:

To meet this priority, the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) must—

- (a) Coordinate on research projects of mutual interest with relevant NIDRR-funded projects, as identified through consultation with the NIDRR project officer;
- (b) Involve individuals with disabilities in planning and implementing the DRRP's research, training, and dissemination activities, and in evaluating its work; and
- (c) Identify anticipated outcomes (i.e., advances in knowledge or changes and improvements in policy, practice, behavior, and system capacity) that are linked to the applicant's stated grant objectives.

SECTION F

SELECTION CRITERIA

(a) Responsiveness to an absolute or competitive priority (5 points).

- (1) The Secretary considers the responsiveness of the application to an absolute or competitive priority published in the Federal Register.
- (2) In determining the application's responsiveness to the absolute or competitive priority, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the applicant addresses all requirements of the absolute or competitive priority.

(b) Quality of the project design (20 points).

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.
 - (ii) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs.
 - (iii) The extent to which the design of the proposed project includes a thorough, high-quality review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for project implementation, and the use of appropriate methodological tools to ensure successful achievement of project objectives.
 - (iv) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.
 - (v) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition.
 - (vi) The extent to which the proposed project will establish linkages with other appropriate agencies and organizations providing services to the target population.
 - (vii) The extent to which the proposed project encourages consumer involvement.

(c) Quality of project services (20 points).

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.
- (3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:

- (i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services.
- (ii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.
- (iii) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the effectiveness of project services.

(d) Design of dissemination activities (10 points).

- (1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of dissemination activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.
- (2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the content of the information to be disseminated—
 - (A) Covers all of the relevant aspects of the subject matter;
 - (ii) The extent to which the materials to be disseminated are likely to be effective and usable, including consideration of their quality, clarity, variety, and format.
 - (iii) The extent to which the methods for dissemination are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration.
 - (iv) The extent to which the materials and information to be disseminated and the methods for dissemination are appropriate to the target population, including consideration of the familiarity of the target population with the subject matter, format of the information, and subject matter.
 - (v) The extent to which the information to be disseminated will be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

(e) Design of technical assistance activities (10 points).

- (1) The Secretary considers the extent to which the design of technical assistance activities is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project.
- (2) In determining the extent to which the design is likely to be effective in accomplishing the objectives of the project, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the methods for providing technical assistance are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration.
 - (ii) The extent to which the information to be provided through technical assistance covers all of the relevant aspects of the subject matter.
 - (iii) The extent to which the technical assistance is appropriate to the target population, including consideration of the knowledge level of the target population, needs of the target population, and format for providing information.

- (iv) The extent to which the technical assistance is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

(f) Plan of operation **(7 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the plan of operation.
- (2) In determining the quality of the plan of operation, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The adequacy of the plan of operation to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, and timelines for accomplishing project tasks.
 - (ii) The adequacy of the plan of operation to provide for using resources, equipment, and personnel to achieve each objective.

(g) Adequacy and reasonableness of the budget **(5 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy and the reasonableness of the proposed budget.
- (2) In determining the adequacy and the reasonableness of the proposed budget, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the proposed project activities.
 - (ii) The extent to which the budget for the project, including any subcontracts, is adequately justified to support the proposed project activities.

(h) Plan of evaluation **(8 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the plan of evaluation.
- (2) In determining the quality of the plan of evaluation, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the plan of evaluation provides for periodic assessment of progress toward—
 - (A) Implementing the plan of operation; and
 - (B) Achieving the project's intended outcomes and expected impacts.
 - (ii) The extent to which the plan of evaluation will be used to improve the performance of the project through the feedback generated by its periodic assessments.
 - (iii) The extent to which the plan of evaluation provides for periodic assessment of a project's progress that is based on identified performance measures that—
 - (A) Are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and expected impacts on the target population;

(i) Project staff**(8 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the project staff.
- (2) In determining the quality of the project staff, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.
- (3) In addition, the Secretary considers one or more of the following:
 - (i) The extent to which the key personnel and other key staff have appropriate training and experience in disciplines required to conduct all proposed activities.
 - (ii) The extent to which the commitment of staff time is adequate to accomplish all the proposed activities of the project.

(j) Adequacy and accessibility of resources**(7 points).**

- (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy and accessibility of the applicant's resources to implement the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the adequacy and accessibility of resources, the Secretary considers one or more of the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the applicant is committed to provide adequate facilities, equipment, other resources, including administrative support, and laboratories, if appropriate.
 - (ii) The extent to which the facilities, equipment, and other resources are appropriately accessible to individuals with disabilities who may use the facilities, equipment, and other resources of the project.

SECTION G

PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS

PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS

Research activities involving human subjects supported by awards under these programs are subject to Department of Education Regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects. You do **not** need an assurance or IRB approval as a condition of applying for this competition.

If you marked "Yes" for Item 3 of Department of Education Supplemental Information for SF 424, you must provide a human subjects "exempt research" or "nonexempt research" narrative. Insert the narrative(s) in the space provided. If you have multiple projects and need to provide more than one narrative, please indicate which project each set of responses addresses.

A. Exempt Research Narrative.

If you marked "Yes" for item 3 a. and designated exemption numbers(s), provide the "exempt research" narrative. The narrative must contain sufficient information about the involvement of human subjects in the proposed research to allow a determination by ED that the designated exemption(s) are appropriate. The narrative must be succinct. In addition, narratives are required for each participating partner if research is being conducted at other sites.

B. Nonexempt Research Narrative.

If you marked "No" for item 3 a. you must provide the "nonexempt research" narrative. The narrative must address the seven points. Although no specific page limitation applies to this section of the application, be succinct.

Copies of the Department of Education regulations for the Protection of Human Subjects as well as other documents are available on the website below. For more information call (202) 260-3353 or go on-line the Protection of Human Subjects in research Web Site:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/humansub.html>

SECTION H

**APPLICATION FORMAT AND
INSTRUCTIONS**

APPLICATION FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for grants under this program must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (grants.gov) by the closing date unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement.

It is recommended that your electronic application (or paper application if you have requested and been approved for a waiver), be organized in the following manner and include the following:

NOTE: You will be uploading sections of your application by heading. There is a heading for: (1) Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424); (2) Table of Contents; (3) Abstract; (4) ED Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED-524); (5) Budget Narrative; (6) Project Narrative; (7) General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements – Section 427; (8) GG Lobbying Form (90-0013); (9) Faith Based Survey on EEO; (10) ED Supplemental Form for SF 424; (11) SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying; and (12) Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support. There is a file size limitation to each section and you may only upload one document under each heading. Therefore, in order to make sure that all of your materials are uploaded successfully, you will need to combine multiple original documents for a heading (e.g., letters, resumes) into a single document before uploading.

1. Application for Federal Assistance (Form SF 424)

- This form requires basic identifying information about the applicant and the application.
- Applicants should note that there are multiple DRRPs open and use the **RELEVANT** CFDA and Title from the NFP/NIA.

2. Table of Contents

- The Table of Contents shows where and how the important sections of your proposal are organized.
- While the application will be submitted electronically, the reviewers will use printed copies during the review process. The Table of Contents will assist them in more efficiently and effectively evaluating your application.
- Upload the Table of Contents to Optional Forms: Other Attachments.

3. Abstract

- The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of what the whole (all years) project is, not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced.
- Upload the Abstract to ED Abstract.

4. **ED Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED-524)**

- Remember that you must provide complete budget information for each year of the proposed project. Use the Budget Narrative heading to upload.
- Please report Federal Funds in Section A – Budget Summary and Non-Federal Funds in Section B – Budget Summary.
- Specific instructions for completing the budget forms are provided within this application package.

Name: Enter the Name of the applicant organization(s) or institution(s) in the space provided.

Personnel (Line 1): Enter project personnel salaries and wages only. Include fees and expenses for consultants on line 6.

Fringe Benefits (Line 2): The institution's normal fringe benefits contribution may be charged to the program. Leave this line blank if fringe benefits applicable to direct salaries and wages are treated as part of the indirect cost.

Travel (Line 3): Indicate the travel costs of employees and participants only. Include travel of persons such as consultants and trainees on line 6.

Equipment (Line 4): Indicate the cost of tangible, non-expendable personal property that has usefulness greater than one year and acquisition costs that are the lesser of the capitalization level established by the applicant entity for financial statement purposes or \$5,000 per article. Lower limits may be established to maintain consistency with the applicant's policy.

Supplies (line 5): Show all tangible personal property except that on line 4.

Contractual (line 6): The contractual category should include all costs specifically incurred with actions that the applicant takes in conjunction with an established internal procurement system. Include consultant fees, expenses, and travel costs in this category if the consultant's services are obtained through a written binding agreement or contract.

Construction (line 7): Not applicable.

Other (line 8): Indicate all direct costs not covered on lines 1-6. For example, include costs such as space rental, required fees, honoraria and travel (where a contract is not in place for services), stipends, training, and communication and printing costs.

Total Direct Costs (line 9): The sum of lines 1-8.

Indirect Costs (line 10): There is no restricted indirect cost rate for this program. Use your institution's Federally negotiated rate.

Training Stipends (line 11): There are three types of projects that might include budget requests for stipends, tuition allowance, or other types of similar charges to support the objectives of the project:

- ☐ Fellowship or Scholarship Programs
- ☐ Educational Training Projects
- ☐ Projects where students receive tuition remission or other forms of compensation, as, or in lieu of wages.

Total Cost (line 12): This should equal to sum of lines 9-11 (total direct costs + indirect + stipends). The sum for column one, labeled *Project Year 1 (a)*, should also be equal to item 18a on the application cover sheet (SF Form 424).

Cost Share: Please include this information on the ED Form 524, Section B – Budget Summary, Non-Federal Funds – Tab 2 and in your budget narrative.

5. **Budget Narrative**

- This part requires an itemized budget breakdown for the project year and the basis for estimating the costs of personnel salaries, benefits, project staff travel, materials and supplies, consultants and subcontracts, indirect costs and any other projected expenditures.
- Address Cost Share in a separate section of the budget narrative labeled "Cost Share."
- Please provide an itemized budget breakdown for each project year.
- Upload the Budget Narrative to the Budget Narrative Section.

6. **Project Narrative**

- The application narrative responds to the General Requirements for DRRP's found in Section E and the Selection Criteria found in Section F of this application package. The reviewers will use this section to evaluate your application.
- Upload the Project Narrative to the Project Narrative Section. upload your document.

Each applicant is encouraged to limit the project narrative to the equivalent of no more than 100 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double-space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs.
- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New or Arial.
- Include all critical information in the program narrative, minimizing the need for additional appendices.
- Ensure that you attach **.PDF files only** for any attachments to your application. PDF files are the only Education approved file type accepted as detailed in the Federal Register application notice. Applicants must submit individual .PDF files only when attaching files to their application. Specifically, the Department will not accept any attachments that contain files within a file, such as PDF Portfolio files. Any attachments uploaded that are not .PDF files or are password protected files will not be read. If you need assistance converting your files to a .pdf format, please refer to this Grants.gov webpage with links to conversion programs: http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp#pdf_conversion_programs

NOTE: The recommended page limit does not apply to the Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424); the budget narrative, ; the forms; the one page abstract; the resumes; the bibliography, or the letters of support. However, the recommended page limit does apply to all of the project narrative section.

7. General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements – Section 427

- Section 427 requires each applicant for funds (other than an individual person) to include in its application a description of the steps the applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its Federally-assisted program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs.

8. GG Lobbying Form (90-0013)

- Instructions for completing this form are included on the grants.gov website.

9. Faith Based Survey on EEO

- Instructions for completing this form are included on the grants.gov website.

10. ED Supplemental Form for SF 424

- Instructions for completing this form are included on the grants.gov website.

11. SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying

- Instructions for completing this form are included on the grants.gov website.

12. Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support

- Vitae of staff or consultants should include the individual's title and role in the proposed project, and other information that is specifically pertinent to this proposed project.
- If collaboration with another organization is involved in the proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or assurances of cooperation.
- Upload the Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support to the Other Attachments-Optional Section.

SECTION I

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. CAN I GET AN EXTENSION OF THE DUE DATE?

In the case of most competitions the answer is no. On rare occasions the Department of Education may extend a closing date for all applicants. If that occurs, a notice of the revised due date is published in the Federal Register; this extension will identify who is eligible to apply for a given competition. There are no extensions or exceptions to the due date made for individual applicants. Additionally, there are provisions for extension for Grants.gov, per the guidance included in the application package.

2. WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION?

The application should include the following:

- (1) Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424);
- (2) Table of Contents;
- (3) Abstract;
- (4) ED Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED-524);
- (5) Budget Narrative;
- (6) Project Narrative;
- (7) General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements—Section 427;
- (8) GG Lobbying Form (90-0013);
- (9) Faith Based Survey on EEO;
- (10) ED Supplemental Form for SF 424;
- (11) SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying; and
- (12) Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support.

The budgets for all years, including a detailed budget narrative, should be included. If collaboration with another organization or individual is involved in any proposed activity, the application should include assurances of participation by the other parties, including written agreements or letters of cooperation. It is not useful to include general letters of support or endorsement in the application. If the applicant proposes to use unique tests or other measurement instruments that are not widely known in the field, it would be helpful to include the instrument in the application. Many applications contain voluminous appendices that are not helpful and in many cases cannot even be mailed to the reviewers. It is generally not helpful to include such things as brochures, general capability statements of collaborating organizations, maps, copies of publications, or descriptions of other projects completed by the applicant.

3. WHAT FORMAT SHOULD BE USED FOR THE APPLICATION?

NIDRR generally advises applicants to organize the project narrative to follow the selection criteria. The specific review criteria vary according to the specific programs and are included in this application package. Additionally, applicants should provide clearly stated hypotheses or research questions, goals, objectives,

expected outcomes, and public benefit of the research or development project. The application should be organized to provide a thorough description of the methods and target population(s) and supported by evidence of need for the project, as identified in the relevant literature; citations are useful and may strengthen the proposal. Specific information on the format can be found in Section H – Application Format and Instructions of this application package.

4. ARE THERE PAGE LIMITS TO MY APPLICATION?

The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you limit the application narrative to the equivalent of no more than 100 pages, using the following standards:

- (1) A “page” is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides;
- (2) Double-space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions, as well as all text in charts, tables, figures, and graphs;
- (3) Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch);
- (4) Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New or Arial; and
- (5) Include all critical information in the program narrative, minimizing the need for additional appendices.

5. MAY I SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO MORE THAN ONE OPEN NIDRR PROGRAM COMPETITION AT A TIME OR MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION TO A PARTICULAR PROGRAM COMPETITION?

Yes. You may submit more than one application in any given competition. You may submit to as many open competitions for which an application is responsive to the program requirements. However, each competition is unique and the selection criteria will vary from one competition to another. It is important that each separate application include the required materials for that particular competition.

6. DO I NEED AN ABSTRACT AND WHAT SHOULD IT INCLUDE?

Yes, you do need an abstract. The abstract is used by both the peer reviewers and the program staff in the review and processing of the application. The ONE-PAGE abstract should be a comprehensive description of the project (all years), not a description of the competency of the institution or project director. It is not an executive summary. It can be single or double-spaced. Upload to ED Abstract.

7. WHAT IS THE ALLOWABLE INDIRECT COST RATE?

For the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A) applicants must have a current indirect cost rate agreement to charge indirect costs to a grant. The maximum amount of the award includes both direct and indirect costs (ED Budget Information non-Construction programs (ED-524). The Department's Indirect Cost Group has more information on what you should know about indirect cost rates at its Web site: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/fipao/abouticg.html>

8. CAN PROFIT MAKING BUSINESSES APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Yes; however, for-profit organizations will not be able to collect a fee or profit on the grant.

9. CAN INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR GRANTS?

Individuals are not eligible to apply for the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP).

10. CAN NIDRR STAFF ADVISE ME WHETHER MY PROJECT IS OF INTEREST TO NIDRR OR LIKELY TO BE FUNDED?

No. NIDRR staff can only advise you of the requirements of the program in which you propose to submit your application. However, staff cannot advise you as to whether or not your subject area or proposed approach is likely to receive approval.

11. HOW DO I ENSURE THAT MY APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED UNDER THE CORRECT COMPETITION?

Applicants must clearly include the competition title and CFDA number, on the Standard Form 424, and include a project title that describes the project, based on the competition.

12. HOW SOON AFTER SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION CAN I FIND OUT IF IT WILL BE FUNDED?

The time from closing date to grant award date varies from program to program. Generally speaking, NIDRR makes awards within six to seven months after the closing date. Unsuccessful applicants generally will be notified within that time frame as well. When NIDRR is able to release information on the status of grant applications, it will notify applicants by letter. This information is **not** posted on the NIDRR homepage or the Grants.gov website.

13. WHAT START DATE SHOULD I USE ON MY APPLICATION?

For the purpose of estimating a project start date, the applicant should estimate approximately six to seven months from the closing date, preferably October 1. You must have a start date that allows you to complete an Annual Performance Report (APR) by May 31st with a minimum of six month of activities to report on.

14. IF MY APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, CAN I ASSUME I WILL GET THE REQUESTED BUDGET AMOUNT IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS?

No. Funding in subsequent years is subject to availability of funds and project performance.

15. WILL ALL APPROVED APPLICATIONS BE FUNDED?

No. Peer review can result in more applications being determined to be worthy of consideration for funding than available resources allow. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to consider resubmitting applications in future competitions. Funded applications will be notified in the manner described in #12.

16. HOW DO THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS IMPACT ON MY APPLICATION?

Successful applicants with multi-year grants must submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) demonstrating and documenting their progress in meeting approved project objectives and their success in addressing the performance measures outlined in the Notice Inviting Applications. Grantees must also provide the most current financial and performance measure data for each year of the project. Grantees will also be required to submit a final performance report, 90 days after the end of the project period. The APR is submitted electronically via a web-based system. This system is maintained by a contractor. Grantees are provided an appropriate URL and personal password to access the system. The contractor will also send newly funded grantees information about when and how to submit their APR. The Department uses the applicant's performance data for program management and administration, in such areas as determining new and continuation funding and planning technical assistance. Grantees are required to participate fully in any evaluation of the NIDRR program carried out by the Department of Education.

17. DO I HAVE TO INCLUDE COST SHARE IN MY APPLICATION?

NIDRR has cost share requirements for the Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (133A) in accordance with statutory (29 USC 762), regulatory (34 CFR Section 350.52), and administrative requirements. This information should be reflected on the SF 424 #18. (B), the ED 524 form - Section B (Budget Summary Non-Federal Funds), and in the budget narrative for each year. A minimum amount of up to 1% of the total yearly budget amount is required; however, you

may include more than 1%. If the cost share amount is changed for a competition, it will be announced in the Notice Inviting Applications. For more information, see EDGAR 74.23 and 84.24.

18. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO ABOUT HUMAN SUBJECTS PROTECTION IN MY RESEARCH?

If you are planning research involving human subjects at any time during the project period, you check “Yes” in the Human Subjects section of the ED supplement to the SF 424 form. If you checked “Yes,” you need to indicate whether the research is exempt or not exempt from the protection of human subjects requirements of EDGAR part 97 and if you have an IRB number. You will need to fill out the human subjects narrative for each site where the research is being conducted. The program and the Department’s human subjects staff reviews the applicant’s response against the application itself to determine its accuracy. They contact you for additional information or clarification, if needed. More information can be found in the instructions for the SF 424 form and in this application package in the Human Subjects section.

19. MUST I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION VIA GRANTS.GOV?

Applications for grants for this competition must be submitted electronically using the Governmentwide Grants.gov Apply site at www.Grants.gov. Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us. **We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions.**

20. HOW WILL I RECEIVE FUNDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL YEARS OF MY GRANT (CONTINUATION AWARD)?

In making a continuation award, the Secretary may consider under 34 CFR 75.253, the extent to which a grantee has made “substantial progress toward meeting the objectives in its approved application.” This consideration includes the review of a grantee’s progress in meeting the targets and projected outcomes in its approved application, and whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget. In making a continuation grant, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23)

DUNS NUMBER INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: Check with your fiscal office to see if your institution has an assigned DUNS before contacting Dun & Bradstreet

D-U-N-S No.: Please provide the applicant's D-U-N-S Number. You can obtain your D-U-N-S Number at no charge by calling **1-800-234-3867** or by completing a D-U-N-S Number Request Form. The form can be obtained via the Internet at the following URL:

http://www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/index.html

The D-U-N-S Number is a unique nine-digit number that does not convey any information about the recipient. A built in check digit helps assure the accuracy of the D-U-N-S Number. The ninth digit of each number is the check digit, which is mathematically related to the other digits. It lets computer systems determine if a D-U-N-S Number has been entered correctly.

Dun & Bradstreet, a global information services provider, has assigned D-U-N-S numbers to over 43 million companies worldwide. **Live help Monday-Friday 8am-6pm (EST) Dial 1.800.234.3867**

Note: Electronic submission via Grants.gov must use DUNS number your organization used when it registered in the Central Contractor Registry.

SECTION J

GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT–PLEASE READ FIRST

U.S. Department of Education GRANTS.GOV SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

To facilitate your use of Grants.gov, this document includes important submission procedures you need to be aware of to ensure your application is received in a timely manner and accepted by the Department of Education.

ATTENTION –ADOBE FORMS AND PDF FILES REQUIRED

Applications submitted to Grants.gov for the Department of Education will be posted using Adobe forms. Therefore, applicants will need to download the latest version of Adobe reader (at least Adobe Reader 8.1.2). Information on computer and operating system compatibility with Adobe and links to download the latest version is available on Grants.gov. We strongly recommend that you review these details on www.Grants.gov before completing and submitting your application. In addition, applicants should submit their application a day or two in advance of the closing date as detailed below. Also, applicants are required to upload their attachments in .pdf format only. (See details below under “Attaching Files – Additional Tips.”) If you have any questions regarding this matter please email the Grants.gov Contact Center at support@grants.gov or call 1-800-518-4726.

Also, applicants should be aware that on October 11, 2010, Grants.gov implemented a new security build which requires each organization’s e-Biz POC (Point of Contact) update their Grants.gov registration. To complete this step, the e-Biz POC must have their DUNS number and CCR MPIN. We recommend this step be completed several days before application submission unless the e-Biz POC has already responded to this requirement. For more information on this topic, please visit this Grants.gov information link: <http://www.grants.gov/securitycommebiz/>.

- 1) **REGISTER EARLY** – Grants.gov registration may take five or more business days to complete. You may begin working on your application while completing the registration process, but you cannot submit an application until all of the Registration steps are complete. For detailed information on the Registration Steps, please go to: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp. [Note: Your organization will need to update its Central Contractor Registry (CCR) registration annually.]
- 2) **SUBMIT EARLY** – **We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the last day to submit your application. Grants.gov will put a date/time stamp on your application and then process it after it is fully uploaded.** The time it takes to upload an application will vary depending on a number of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection, and the time it takes Grants.gov to process the application will vary as well. If Grants.gov rejects your

application (see step three below), you will need to resubmit successfully before 4:30:00 p.m. Washington, DC time on the deadline date.

Note: To submit successfully, you must provide the DUNS number on your application that was used when you registered as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) on Grants.gov. This DUNS number is typically the same number used when your organization registered with the CCR (Central Contractor Registry). If you do not enter the same DUNS number on your application as the DUNS you registered with, Grants.gov will reject your application.

- 3) **VERIFY SUBMISSION IS OK** – You will want to verify that Grants.gov and the Department of Education receive your Grants.gov submission timely and that it was validated successfully. To see the date/time your application was received, login to Grants.gov and click on the Track My Application link. For a successful submission, the date/time received should be earlier than 4:30:00 p.m. Washington, DC time, on the deadline date, AND the application status should be: Validated, Received by Agency, or Agency Tracking Number Assigned.

If the date/time received is later than 4:30:00 p.m. Washington, D.C. time, on the deadline date, your application is late. If your application has a status of “Received” it is still awaiting validation by Grants.gov. Once validation is complete, the status will either change to “Validated” or “Rejected with Errors.” If the status is “Rejected with Errors,” your application has not been received successfully. Some of the reasons Grants.gov may reject an application can be found on the Grants.gov site: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_faqs.jsp#54. For more detailed information on troubleshooting Adobe errors, you can review the Adobe Reader Error Messages document at <http://www.grants.gov/assets/AdobeReaderErrorMessages.pdf>. If you discover your application is late or has been rejected, please see the instructions below. Note: You will receive a series of confirmations both online and via e-mail about the status of your application. Please do not rely solely on e-mail to confirm whether your application has been received timely and validated successfully.

SUBMISSION PROBLEMS –WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

If you have problems submitting to Grants.gov before the closing date, please contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or <http://www.grants.gov/contactus/contactus.jsp>, or use the customer support available on the Web site: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_help.jsp.

If electronic submission is optional and you have problems that you are unable to resolve before the deadline date and time for electronic applications, please follow the transmittal instructions for hard copy applications in the Federal Register notice and get a hard copy application postmarked by midnight on the deadline date.

If electronic submission is required, you must submit an electronic application before 4:30:00 p.m., unless you follow the procedures in the Federal Register notice and qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement and submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

HELPFUL HINTS WHEN WORKING WITH GRANTS.GOV

Please note, once you download an application from Grants.gov, you will be working offline and saving data on your computer. Please be sure to note where you are saving the Grants.gov file on your computer. You will need to logon to Grants.gov to upload and submit the application. **You must provide the DUNS number on your application that was used when you registered as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) on Grants.gov.**

Please go to http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_help.jsp for help with Grants.gov. For additional tips related to submitting grant applications, please refer to the Grants.gov Submit Application FAQs found on the Grants.gov http://www.grants.gov/help/submit_application_faqs.jsp.

DIAL-UP INTERNET CONNECTIONS

When using a dial up connection to upload and submit your application, it can take significantly longer than when you are connected to the Internet with a high-speed connection, e.g. cable modem/DSL/T1. While times will vary depending upon the size of your application, it can take a few minutes to a few hours to complete your grant submission using a dial up connection. If you do not have access to a high-speed connection and electronic submission is required, you may want to consider following the instructions in the Federal Register notice to obtain an exception to the electronic submission requirement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. **(See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)**

MAC USERS

For MAC compatibility information, review the Operating System Platform Compatibility Table at the following Grants.gov link: http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp. **If electronic submission is required and you are concerned about your ability to submit electronically as a non-windows user, please follow instructions in the Federal Register notice to obtain an exception to the electronic submission requirement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.** (See the Federal Register notice for detailed instructions.)

ATTACHING FILES—ADDITIONAL TIPS

Please note the following tips related to attaching files to your application, especially the requirement that applicants **only include .pdf files** in their application:

1. Ensure that you attach **.PDF files only** for any attachments to your application. PDF files are the only Education approved file type accepted as detailed in the Federal Register application notice. Applicants must submit individual .PDF files only when attaching files to their application. Specifically, the Department will not accept any attachments that contain files within a file, such as PDF Portfolio files. Any attachments uploaded that are not .PDF files or are password protected files will not be read. If you need assistance converting your files to a .pdf format, please refer to this Grants.gov webpage with links to conversion programs:
http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp#pdf_conversion_programs
2. Grants.gov cannot process an application that includes two or more files that have the same name within a grant submission. Therefore, each file uploaded to your application package should have a unique file name.
3. When attaching files, applicants should follow the guidelines established by Grants.gov on the size and content of file names. Uploaded files must be less than 50 characters, contain no spaces, no special characters (example: -, &, *, %, /, #, \) including periods (.), blank spaces and accent marks. Applications submitted that do not comply with the Grants.gov guidelines will be rejected at Grants.gov and not forwarded to the Department.
4. Applicants should limit the size of their file attachments. Documents submitted that contain graphics and/or scanned material often greatly increase the size of the file attachments and can result in difficulties opening the files. For reference, the average discretionary grant application package totals 1 to 2 MB. Therefore, you may want to check the total size of your package before submission.

APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAIL OR HAND DELIVERY IF A WAIVER HAS BEEN OBTAINED

SUBMISSION OF PAPER APPLICATIONS BY MAIL.

If you submit your application in paper format by mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier), you must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

BY MAIL THROUGH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA number 84.133A-7)
LBJ Basement Level 1
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-4260

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

SUBMISSION OF PAPER APPLICATIONS BY HAND DELIVERY.

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you (or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.133A-7)
550 12th Street, SW.
Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza
Washington, DC 20202-4260

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications:

If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department--

- (1) You must indicate on the envelope and--if not provided by the Department--in Item 11 of the SF 424 the CFDA number, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and

- (2) The Application Control Center will mail to you a notification of receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

SECTION K

**REQUIRED FORMS
AND
FORM INSTRUCTIONS**

APPLICATION FORMS

All electronic and paper (if a waiver has been submitted and approved) applications submitted to NIDRR must include the following forms/parts:

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424)
- Table of Contents
- Abstract
- ED Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (ED-524)
- Budget Narrative
- Project Narrative
- General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Requirements–Section 427
- GG Lobbying Form (90-0013)
- Faith Based Survey on EEO
- ED Supplemental Form for SF 424
- SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying
- Vitae/Bibliography/Letters of Support

A separate application must be submitted for each grant sought. No grant may be awarded unless the completed application forms have been received. All above forms are mandatory and must be submitted with the application, if an item does not appear to be relevant write "NA" for not applicable.

Instructions for each form are provided on the Grants.gov website.

SECTION L

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Did you complete the registration process for Grants.gov for the mandatory electronic submission on www.grants.gov?

DOES YOUR APPLICATION INCLUDE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?

- ☐ Cover page (SF 424) marked appropriately with **84.133A-7**. Download of correct package for **84.133A-7** applying electronically
- ☐ Priority Topic identified in the Descriptive Title in Block 12 of the SF 424?
- ☐ Budget form (ED form 524) with dollar amounts not exceeding the maximum in any year?
- ☐ Required Cost Share included on side “B” of the ED 524 and explained in the budget narrative for each year?
- ☐ Budget narrative for each year with arithmetic checked for accuracy
- ☐ Program narrative, including abstract and responses to the selection criteria
- ☐ Assurances and Certifications (from the forms list in section K)
- ☐ Correctly uploaded files on Grants.gov?
- ☐ Narrative on the Protection of Human Subjects?

DID YOU DO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?

- ☐ Submit application on or before **August 15, 2011**?
- ☐ Fully complete the upload of your application and receive successful validation of the submission before 4:30:00 pm, Washington, D.C. time on the closing date?
- ☐ Provide 1 original and 2 copies of the application if submitting by post, hand-delivery or carrier service (Although not required, 1 original and 9 copies are requested and a disk copy) – if you obtained a waiver?

PAPERWORK BURDEN STATEMENT

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1820-0027. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 200 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection.

If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: 84.133 Grant Program, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-2700.

GRANT APPLICATION RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

If you fail to receive the notification of application within fifteen (15) days from the closing date, call:

U.S. Department of Education
Application Control Center
(202) 245-6288

GRANT AND CONTRACT FUNDING INFORMATION

The Department of Education provides information about grant and contract opportunities electronically in several ways:

ED Internet Home Page www.ed.gov